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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC 12th Tank Brig in Sternberk

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 11 October 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Nonpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. The 12th Tank Brig, Utvar No 9383, was located in Sternberk (P 50/N 86) prior to 16 August 1950. It was subordinate to the Tank Corps in Olomouc (P 50/N 85), which also included a tank brigade in Vyskov (P 59/N 71) and another tank brigade whose location was not determined. (1)
2. The Hq 12th Tank Brig was located in a building in Sternberk. The brigade headquarters units and the I, II and III Bns were quartered in a cantonment and the IV Bn in a former cloister at Sternberk.
3. The officers of the brigade included Major Knara (fnu), commanding officer; Lieutenant Sedlar (fnu), deputy CO and political officer; Major Srec (fnu), commanding officer of the I (Tank) Bn; Officer Candidate Kozel (fnu), deputy CO and political officer of the I Bn; and Staff Captain Chymsky (fnu), acting CO of the 1st Co. Two Soviet officers were permanently attached to the brigade, i.e. Lieutenant Colonel Petrochenko, (fnu) to the brigade headquarters and an unidentified Lieutenant to the submachine gun battalion. (2).
4. Sixty percent of the brigade personnel were Slovaks and forty percent Czechs. Twenty of the 97 members of the 1st Co were registered members of the Communist Party. The ration strength of the entire brigade was 1,960 officers, NCOs and EM in August 1950.
5. The 12th Tank Brig was organized into the headquarters with headquarters company, an engineer company, a signal company, a medical company, the I (Tank) Bn, the II (Tank) Bn, the III (Motor Trans)Bn and the IV (SIG) Bn. (3).
6. The components of the I Bn were the 1st (Tank) Co, the 2d (Tank) Co and the 3d (Hq) Co. The 1st Co was organized into three platoons with three tanks each. The I Bn had eight regular officers, eight reserve officers and 260 NCOs and EM.
7. The II Bn was made up of the 4th (Tank) Co, the 5th (Tank) Co and the 6th Co.
8. The 12th Tank Brig was equipped with thirty-nine T34 tanks. The brigade headquarters units still had two Cromwell and two Tiger tank chassis. Officers had been instructed that the tank equipment of the brigade would be brought up to 200 in

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case of war. The tanks earmarked for issuance in case of mobilization were believed to be stored in depots at Olomouc and Sternberk. They had already been broken in. All brigades of the Tank Corps had turned in their Sherman tanks at the Milovice (O 51/G 00) range. (4)

9. The 1st (Tank) Co was equipped with nine T34 tanks mounting a 76-mm gun without muzzle brake, two Czech model 24 machine guns, a Soviet model TK-6 radio set and an intercommunication system. (5) The 6th Co was equipped with six T-70 tanks, six German half-track armored vehicles and two light British half-track armored vehicles. (6)
10. The III (Motor Trans) Bn had 200 trucks and jeeps of various makes and 60 250-ccm Jawa motorcycles. (7)
11. The IV (SMG) Bn was equipped with German submachine guns. Its personnel recently also received training with Czech model 48 submachine guns.
12. The tank brigade in Vyskov was also equipped with T34 tanks. Some Soviet armored SP guns were also observed there.
13. The 12th Tank Brig was at the Smilov-Libava (P 50/O 07) troop training grounds in mid-August 1950. (8) The training followed Soviet methods. The state of training was considered poor. Effective 1 October 1950 the previous Czech manual and a new disciplinary and penal code would be superseded by the Soviet-pattern interior duty manual and a new disciplinary and penal code would be introduced.
14. In political instruction it was mentioned that no tanks would henceforth be built in Czechoslovakia. The production would be limited to submachine guns and small-arms ammunition. It was said that all satellite countries would receive tanks from the U.S.S.R. and would restrict their armament production to specific types of weapons and ammunition.

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- (5) Presumably a model 26 machine gun as there is no Czech model 24 machine gun.
- (6) Probably a company for training drivers on armored vehicles. The T70 is known to be a light Soviet tank, the predecessor of the T34 model.
- (7) Unless the motor vehicle equipment includes that of the submachine gun battalion, the figures appear to be too high.
- (8) A large troop training grounds used by units from Moravia is located at Libava.
- (9) Although various newspapers repeatedly stated that a Czech tank model was being manufactured at the Skoda Plant, no Czech-designed tanks have been identified since 1945. The T34 tanks observed with the units were delivered from the U.S.S.R. rather than duplicated by the Skoda Plant. This was confirmed to a certain extent by the deserter.
- (10) Information under item 10 of Annex is the first that men of 1929 class were called up for service with the army.

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